

The **New York Metro Alliance of Anarchists** is a broad organization of anarchists and anti-authoritarians who live in the New York metropolitan area. NYMAA is a social revolutionary organization. Thus, our ultimate aim is to eradicate all forms of authoritarianism, hierarchy, and domination and help build a genuinely liberatory, self-managed, directly democratic society. To that end our immediate aim is to bring anarchists together on a common plane of struggle for the purpose of growing and expanding the movement and spreading our ideas.



A Very Brief History of NYMAA

When a bunch of us got together last summer to talk about starting a New York City anarchist organization, what fueled us most was raw, naked frustration. After all, NYC is the royal seat of global capitalism. Over the past ten or fifteen years, it has shed almost every vestige of civic inclusiveness and cultural originality to become what it is now: a vapid, elitist, plastic Babylon; a place to chase money, spend money, and above all be enslaved by money, all within the wealth-friendly and poverty-damning boundaries established by a businessman mayor, a maniacally despotic governor, and a sadistic police force.

Clearly, we thought, this was a city that could use a vast, street-level anarchist presence that would work to counteract the virulent strains of submissiveness and materialism that had infected almost every inhabitant, regardless of socioeconomic strata.

Yet there was no such presence. Yes, there were anar-

chists. But owing to the peculiarities of the development of contemporary NYC anarchism (another story for another time), these were scattered to the four winds: isolated, ghettoized, uncoordinated, and unable to collectively muster the forces required to engage in the necessary forms of combat on the various fronts. Meanwhile, anarchist visitors and new anarchist resident practitioners were dumbfounded by the fact that there was no place to consistently plug themselves into concrete activity. So, after a five-month pregnancy during which we crafted a set of flexible operational guidelines, the New York Metro Alliance of Anarchists was born at our inaugural General Assembly on March 4, 2006. Almost immediately, the organization began to serve certain initially envisioned functions, as it funneled a sizeable chunk of



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anarchists of a certain mindset into work relating to general propaganda, labor support, radical approaches to health, and specific localized initiatives organized by borough or neighborhood. More recently, NYMAA has become a touchstone for visiting anarchists and anarchists from outlying areas who want to get a feel for what kinds of anarchist activities one can engage in here in NYC.

Have we set the city aflame with our revolutionary fervor? Not even close. NYMAA is still less than six months old, and it remains in the process of "becoming." Our three General Assemblies have been well attended, but the work accomplished there is mainly of an internal, structural character. There is still only minimally enthusiastic involvement in the working groups and locals, which is where the street-level work is supposed to get done. However, an undeniably anarchist culture of resistance has blossomed around the organization, and as our projects attain greater definition and we get to know one another better, there's a very good chance that we'll be able to start achieving some of our stated goals.

At which point, the hedge fund managers, the luxury real estate developers, and their armed bullies will finally start quaking in their loafers and jackboots. Or so we hope.

contact

If you live in NYC, and would like to hook up with NYMAA, send an email to:

nymaa-comms@riseup.net

If you live outside the NY Metro area, and would like to contact NYMAA regarding affiliation and such, contact our interim Global Communicator at:

melodiousthunk@riseup.net

Our general assemblies happen once every two months, but locals and working groups are numerous, so there's plenty to do and many ways to get active.

Check out our website at:

<http://www.nymaa.org>